

## Public Meeting on the subject of the Cape Fear River and Dams.

In pursuance of public notice, a meeting of the citizens of Wilmington interested in the preservation and improvement of the entrance to the port, was convened at the Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday evening, the 6th inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration the proper means to be adopted to secure these desirable ends.

On motion of Dr. A. J. Delosset, Jr., the meeting was organized by calling John Dawson, Esq., M. P., to the Chair, and appointing James Fulton and T. Burr, Jr., Secretaries.

The meeting having been organized, Geo. Davis, Esq., in a few eloquent remarks, introduced to the audience Professor A. D. Bache, the distinguished head of the U. S. Coast Survey, who had kindly consented to be present, and explain in the conclusions to which the Commission had come with regard to the present state of the Harbor—the causes which had produced such state, and the means proposed to be adopted for the prevention of further evil effects from the operation of these causes, as well as to restore the former state of things, and with it the former depth—being equal to 20 feet at high water.

Professor Bache commenced his lecture by expressing the interest which he felt in the harbor of Wilmington, and paid a high compliment to the Secretary of the Navy, to whose kind offices he was indebted for the consummation of measures necessary to be arranged in order to enable him to be with us. He next alluded to the peculiar conformation of the coast of North Carolina, and demonstrated the importance of Cape Fear Inlet, which, protected as it was, by the Frying Pan Shoals, was one of the most important harbors of refuge on the coast—if not the most, so from Charleston to the Cape of the Chesapeake; and was thus highly important in a national point of view, as being essential to the safety of the coasting trade of the whole country, and as affording a favorably situated coal depot for national vessels, at Smithville. It is highly important to the country at large, it was vitally so to the town of Wilmington, and scarcely less so to the whole State, and more especially to those 28 counties connected with us by navigation or Railroad, and whose produce must find an outlet over our Bar.

Natural causes were operating, slowly it might appear to be, but still surely and inevitably to close up or seriously lessen the depth of water in our channels, unless measures were devised and perfected to bring about a different state of things, and it would not do for us to fold our arms and trust to the caprice of accidents for relief. The time for exertion has arrived, and an effort must be made, upon the success of which must depend much of the future destinies of the town.

Prof. Bache illustrated his subject by reference to Maps, from which it appeared that we had, at one time, some 20 feet of bar, at high water, and as late as 1797, as shown by Potts' Map, we had 15 feet at low water, equivalent to nearly 20 feet at high. He pointed to the gradual changes in the shore line, caused by the breaking out of New Inlet and the washing away at other places, which, by widening the outlets, lessened the depth and velocity of the water. In 1733, as appears from Mosely's Map, the Main Entrance was little over half a mile in width, and the New Inlet had not yet made its appearance. The Main Entrance is now 11 miles in width, and the New Inlet of a mile, the shoaling is thus accounted for.

The Professor demonstrated how, by the restoration of the former state of things, the former depth of water could be restored. This it was proposed to do:

1st. By the construction of Jetties for the protection of Bald Head, at an estimated cost of \$40,000.

2d. By filling up two smaller openings near New Inlet, which it is believed can be done with Piling, for at least \$10,000.

3d. By the construction of a Jetty for the protection of Zook's Island, and to prevent New Inlet from working farther Southward.

These are the works which it is deemed essential to commence at once, as being necessary to arrest the progress of evil and leave time for consultation and improvement. No doubt is entertained by the Commission, appointed to investigate the subject, but that these ends will be fully answered by them.

4th. The last and greatest work is the closing of New Inlet, which will complete, in all its essential points, the restoration of the former state of things, and, as a consequence, of the former depth of 20 feet water. The estimated cost is \$379,000.

After the conclusion of Prof. Bache's Lecture and the subsidence of the applause which followed it, George Davis, Esq., was called upon and forcibly urged the necessity and propriety of exertion.

O. G. Parsley, Esq., introduced the following resolution, which he prefaced by a few pertinent remarks:

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Wilmington, convinced of the necessity of immediate action towards arresting the shoaling of the bar of the Cape Fear River, and relying on the aid of the General Government hereafter for the same, pledge ourselves to advance the means necessary to carry on the work first recommended by the Commission, as this could be explained by Prof. Bache.

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion of P. K. Dickinson, Esq., the Chairman of the meeting was authorized to appoint a Committee of ten, to wait upon the citizens of Wilmington, and solicit subscription to the amount of \$50,000, the amount necessary, with the \$20,000 already granted by Congress, for the completion of the work to be commenced at once.

The following gentlemen were appointed said Committee: Gilbert Potter, John A. Taylor, Miles Costin, B. Flanner, James Cassidy, W. C. Betten-court, James Anderson, Jacob Wessel, C. D. Ellis, Ben. Beery.

On motion of Dr. James Dickson, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to Professor Bache for his able and lucid exposition of the state and requirements of our harbor, and for the friendly and courteous interest which he has manifested in the subject.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

JOHN DAWSON, Chm'n.  
JAMES FULTON, } Secretaries.  
T. BURR, Jr., }

MADAME ANNA BISHOP.—As will be seen by the advertisement in another column, Madame Anna Bishop, assisted by Boscha, the celebrated composer and performer, and Severo Strini, a Basso Profundo, said to be the possessor of an unrivaled voice and considerable musical ability, will give two concerts at the Theatre here on this and to-morrow (Saturday) evenings. This will form an agreeable contrast to Don Edgar Howard, etc., and present a refined amusement, which ladies can grace with their presence. As performers, Bishop and Boscha are too well known here to require any comment.

CONNECTICUT ELECTION.—Connecticut has gone largely Democratic. All four Congressmen probably Democrats.

NORTH CAROLINA BONDS.—The bids for the \$500,000 North State Bonds were opened at the Bank of the Republic in New York on Thursday last, and the whole amount awarded to Messrs. Comman & Co., of New York, at \$5 02 premium.

WESTLEY JONES, Esq., has been appointed U. S. Marshal of the District of North Carolina, vice George Little, Esq., removed.

## The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Wilmington and Topical Sound Plank Road Company, will be held at the Court House on Monday next. See advertisement in another column.

NEW ORLEANS.—In common with many of our contemporaries to the North of us, we had almost concluded that the State of Louisiana had succeeded, or that the Mississippi River had waxed impatient, and its forbearance had been exhausted by the wickedness of the Crescent City, over which doomed place it had tumultuously spread its waters and swamped the whole crowd, both "Celts" and "Saxons," without preface or apology, leave or "leave," for we had not seen a paper for days and weeks. We are happy at length to discover that our fears have been groundless. Tuesday morning we, and not the people of New Orleans, were inundated with a deluge of new papers, "Deltas" and "True Deltas," "Shipping Lists" and "Pleayunes," and other daily and hebdomadal literature, from which we are pleased to learn that the city of the Delta is in good keeping and as wicked and as jolly as ever—its papers as sprightly, and, by their accounts, their ladies even more bewitching than usual. The numbers before us have not yet quite settled the Cabinet question, but their appearance assures us that the Union has not yet been dissolved by the secession of Louisiana, and that New Orleans has, so far, been able to keep its head above water. Long may it wave.

Mrs. Cass, wife of Gen. Lewis Cass, died at Detroit, on the night of the 31st ult. She is spoken of as having been a very estimable lady. Her loss will be a severe blow to her venerable and distinguished husband.

The Farmer's Journal, printed at Goldsboro', N. C., and edited by Dr. John F. Tompkins, Bath, Beaufort county, N. C., for April, has just come to hand. We have had no time to peruse it. It is the only strictly Agricultural paper in the State, and should be encouraged, as we presume it is worth the subscription price—\$1 per year.

Four Days Later from Europe. The Steamship Arctic arrived at New York on the 5th inst., with Liverpool dates to the 23d ult. The latest accounts received by the French Government lead to the impression that the impression that the Turkish affairs will be amicably settled.

A telegraphic dispatch says that the announcement of the intention of Austria to abandon prosecutions for high treason had been enthusiastically received at Milan.

The commandant of Ancona forbids assemblages of more than 5 persons after sunset.

Austria has revived the passport rigors towards English travellers.

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the members of the How and Erie Engine Company was held at the Commissioners Office on Wednesday 6th inst., at 24 P. M. Chief Engineer, C. D. Ellis, was called to the Chair, and Richard Morris appointed Secretary. An election of officers was entered into, whereupon the following persons were elected:

EDWARD SAVAGE, Foreman;  
W. J. CORNWALL, Asst. Foreman;  
T. M. CHATTERTON, Sec'y & Treas.;  
RICHARD MORRIS, Steward;  
HOSKINS—J. E. PIERCE, Foreman;  
MARSHALL BROWN, Assistant;  
J. A. PARKER;  
GEO. VANAMERING;  
J. D. CUMMINGS;  
JNO. W. HEWETT.

Said election to be subject to the approval of a full meeting of the Company.

T. M. Chatterton was appointed a committee to draft By-Laws for the regulation of the Company, subject to the approval of a full meeting.

Persons wishing to join the Company will please hand in their names to the Secretary of the Company.

On motion the meeting adjourned to meet again on Tuesday evening next at 8 o'clock, at the Commissioners Office.

By order of Chairman, R. MORRIS, Sec'y.

## Cape Fear and Deep River.

A friend writes us from Haywood, under date of 31st March as follows: "It is said that the Cape Fear and Deep River are not quite clear. All the stock has been taken except four or five thousand dollars; the bonds of contractors have been taken and approved by the Governor and Attorney General, and our President is going about with great energy and zeal. We confidently expect to derive some benefit from this great work within a few months. The Company is building a Steamboat on the River below Sudley's Falls, which it is thought will be launched in a short time."

STABBING CASE.—A man named Charles Smith, an Irishman employed on the Wilmington & Maryland Railroad, was severely stabbed in the left breast, on Saturday night, at the Pa o Alto Bar, at the Southern end of the town, in a fracas which occurred there. We learn from Dr. Harris, his attending physician, that his case was so favorable yesterday evening, that he is expected to recover.

BRYANT COX, J. H. ROBSON, George Pearson, and Wm. Martin, are arrested and in jail, charged with the assault, and will be examined before John Cowan, Esq., Special Magistrate, to-day, at 10 o'clock. A. M.—Commercial, Tuesday.

## Merrimack Occurrence.

On Tuesday night a Negro Kitchen belonging to our Townsman, A. Henderson, Esq., was consumed by fire, and two negroes, a woman and her child, about two and a half years old. How the fire originated no clue has been obtained, but is supposed to have been accidental, or by neglect of the woman.

NAVAL.—United States steam frigate Susquehanna remained at Manila January 17; had been unable to make the repairs intended, and would go over to Hong Kong with one engine.

We learn that on yesterday the Postmaster General ordered a contract with Mr. Samuel S. Green for the conveyance of the mails twice a month, in steamers